

# Laboratory Science Profession

## Profession in high demand

- Numerous and varied job opportunities
  - Phlebotomist
  - Laboratory aide
  - Clinical Laboratory Technician / Medical Laboratory Technician
  - Clinical Laboratory Scientist / Medical Technologist
  - Cytotechnologist
  - Histology Technician
  - Histology Technologist
  - Cytogeneticist
  - Molecular biologist
- Profession ranked in the top 18 of “best jobs” in comprehensive national survey
- Positions available for Master degree and PhD level practitioners
- Unlimited choice of practice settings: hospital, reference laboratory, physician office, research, industry, biotechnology....

## Career Description

Medical laboratory professionals perform laboratory tests necessary to provide information for use by physicians in detecting, diagnosing or treating diseases. They are vital members of the health care team; 70-80% of all clinical diagnosis is based, in some way, on laboratory test results.

## Training and Requirements

The minimum education requirements for the **Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) / Medical Technologist (MT)** is the completion of a Bachelor's Degree program, which includes three to four years of course work plus a clinical experience in an accredited educational program in clinical laboratory science. Academic course work is available at Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, the University of Washington and Washington State University. The education programs providing the clinical experience are Central Washington University, Sacred Heart Medical Center, and the University of Washington.

The most common training for the **Clinical Laboratory Technician (CLT) / Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT)** is a two-year Associate Degree program. In



Washington, training for CLT/MLT-AD is available at Shoreline Community College and Wenatchee Valley College. Wenatchee Valley College also has regional programs located in Spokane, Omak, Tri-Cities, and Moses Lake. The Clover Park Technical College program is a CLT/MLT-C certificate program.

There are no schools for **Cytotechnology (CT)** or **Histotechnology (HT)** in Washington at the current time. Information about Cytotechnology can be obtained from the American Society for Cytotechnology at [www.asct.com](http://www.asct.com). The National Society for Histotechnology at [www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org) can provide information on Histotechnology.

Information on **cytogenetics** training, can be obtained from the Association of Genetic Technologists at [www.agt-info.org](http://www.agt-info.org).

## Skills needed include:

- Aptitude for science course work
- Good eye/hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Good communication abilities
- Ability to work with precision and accuracy
- Ability to problem solve
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Ability to work as a team player

# Training Programs In Washington State

## Clinical Laboratory Science / Medical Technologist Programs (Bachelor Degree):

### **Sacred Heart Medical Center**

School of Medical Technology  
101 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99220

Contact: Cynthia Hamby  
Phone: (509) 474-3339  
e-mail: [hambyc@shmc.org](mailto:hambyc@shmc.org)

### **University of Washington**

Medical Technology Program  
Department of Laboratory Medicine  
Box 357110  
Seattle, WA 98195

Contact: Mary Lampe, PhD  
Phone: (206) 598-2135  
e-mail: [lampe@u.washington.edu](mailto:lampe@u.washington.edu)

### **Yakima Regional CLS Program**

1120 West Spruce  
Yakima, WA 98902

Contact: Claudia Steen  
Phone: (509) 248-7784  
e-mail: [yakimacla@providence.org](mailto:yakimacla@providence.org)

## Clinical Laboratory Technician / Medical Laboratory Technician Program (Certificate):

### **Clover Park Technical College**

Medical Laboratory Technician  
Program - Certificate  
4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW  
Tacoma, WA 98299

Contact: Anne O'Neil  
Phone: (253) 589-5625  
e-mail: [aoneil@cptc.ctc.edu](mailto:aoneil@cptc.ctc.edu)



## Clinical Laboratory Technician / Medical Laboratory Technician Programs (Associate Degree):

### **Shoreline Community College**

Medical Laboratory Technology Program  
16101 Greenwood Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98133-5696

Contact: Linda Breiwick  
Phone: (206) 546-4710  
e-mail: [lbreiwic@ctc.edu](mailto:lbreiwic@ctc.edu)

### **Wenatchee Valley College**

Medical Laboratory Technician Program  
1300 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Contact: David Abbott  
Phone: (509) 664-2522  
e-mail: [dabbott@wvcmail.ctc.edu](mailto:dabbott@wvcmail.ctc.edu)